

27. An isocyanate composition at least partially masked, comprising at least one non-carbon-based carboxylic function and being at least partially masked with at least one masking agent.

28. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said carboxylic function is grafted onto the composition by reaction of a precursor of said composition, of an agent bearing a carboxylic function and of a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function.

29. A composition according to Claim 28, wherein said agent bearing a carboxylic function and a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function is a masking agent bearing a carboxylic function.

30. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said composition is a composition masked with at least two masking agents, at least one of which contains a non-carbon-based carboxylic function.

31. A composition according to Claim 29, wherein the ratio in equivalents between the carboxylic functions, and the isocyanate functions which are masked, free and which have reacted with any agent bearing carboxylic functions, on the other hand, is at least equal to 5%.

32. A composition according to Claim 31, wherein the ratio is at least equal to 20%.

33. A composition according to Claim 29, wherein the ratio in equivalents between the carboxylic functions, and the isocyanate functions which are masked, free and

which have reacted with any agent bearing carboxylic functions, is not more than about 9/10.

34. A composition according to Claim 33, wherein the ratio, is not more than about one third.

35. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said non-carbon-based carboxylic function is an acid or a salt thereof.

36. A composition according to Claim 35, wherein said non-carbon-based carboxylic function is an acid function.

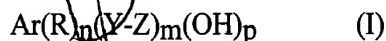
37. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic function represents, in equivalents, at least 10% of the masking agent.

38. A composition according to Claim 37, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic function represents, in equivalents, at least 20% of the masking agent.

39. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic function contains, per masking agent, not more than 4 freely rotating methyl or methylene groups.

40. A composition according to Claim 39, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic function contains, per masking agent, not more than 2 freely rotating methyl or methylene groups.

41. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic function corresponds to the formula:



wherein: Ar is an aromatic group to which are grafted n substituents R, m is the number of polar functions Z representing the carboxylic acid function or the salt thereof, and p is the number of hydroxyl functions; with the further proviso that the values of n, m and p are such that the sum  $n + m + p$  is not more than 2.

42. A composition according to Claim 41, wherein p is not more than 1.

43. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said carboxylic function is directly linked to an aromatic ring.

44. A composition according to Claim 27, further comprising a masking agent not bearing a carboxylic function.

45. A composition according to Claim 44, wherein the masking agent not bearing a carboxylic function is selected from the group consisting of oximes, lactams, pyrazoles, and triazoles.

46. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said isocyanate composition is formed from an oligo-condensate or an oligomer containing at least one masked aliphatic isocyanate function.

47. A composition according to Claim 46, wherein said masked aliphatic function is connected via an  $sp^3$ -type carbon, optionally bearing one or two hydrogen atoms.

48. A composition according to Claim 47, wherein said aliphatic function is neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

49. A composition according to Claim 48, wherein said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or

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oligocondensation starting with several monomers, at least one of which contains at least one aliphatic function which is neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

50. A composition according to Claim 48, wherein said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or oligocondensation starting with several monomers, at least one of which contains at least two aliphatic functions which are neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

51. A composition according to Claim 50, wherein the units obtained from monomers which contain at least one, advantageously two, aliphatic functions which are neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl bear at least 2/3 masked isocyanate functions.

52. A composition according to Claim 27, wherein the masking agent not bearing a carboxylic function is a triazole.

53. A composition according to Claim 27, further comprising an organic base.

54. A composition according to Claim 53, wherein said base is a tertiary amine.

55. A powder paint formulation, comprising a composition as defined in Claim 27.